

TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE
Southmost Union Junior College District

Minutes of the **Regular** Meeting of the Board of Trustees
December 18, 2003

The Board of Trustees of the Southmost Union Junior College District convened in open session, December 18, 2003 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Gorgas Hall at Texas Southmost College. Board members present were Chairman Chester Gonzalez, Vice Chair Rosemary Breedlove, Secretary Eduardo A. Campirano, Mary Rose Cardenas, David Oliveira, Dolly Zimmerman and Dr. Roberto Robles. Also present was Dr. Juliet V. Garcia President of The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Regular Meeting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Chester Gonzalez at 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Gonzalez announced that there was an article in the Brownsville Herald regarding the Chess Champions from Paredes Elementary School. Three second grade students earned first place at the 2003 National Scholastic K12/Collegiate Chess Championship in Chicago. Other schools that participated in this event were Oliveira Middle School, Vela Middle School and Hudson Elementary School.

The Board congratulated the Brownville Independent School District's Chess coaches and players for their outstanding performance and suggested inviting these children and their coaches to a future Board Meeting for recognition.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 5:41 p.m.

1 Executive Session

as provided by Government
Code, Chapter 551.072

Real Estate

Discussion on a property consisting of
approximately 18.104 acres located in
Bayview, Texas
Discussion on Lots 1-12, Block T; Lots

1-5, Block 309; and Lots 1-6, Block 316,
Original Townsite Addition to the City
of Brownsville, Texas

Discussion on a 1.074 acre tract of land
of the Fort Brown Villa Condominium
Regime

The Board convened in Regular Session at 6:52 p.m.

2 Consideration and possible action on matters discussed in Executive Session

Real Estate

Discussion on a property consisting of
approximately 18.104 acres located in
Bayview, Texas

Discussion on Lots 1-12, Block T; Lots
1-5, Block 309; and Lots 1-6, Block 316,
Original Townsite Addition to the City
of Brownsville, Texas

Discussion on a 1.074 acre tract of land
of the Fort Brown Villa Condominium
Regime

A motion was made by Mrs. Cardenas to approve the contract for the sale of Duffey Plaza, Lots One through Twelve (1-12), Block "T:" Lots One through Five (1-5), Block Three Hundred Nine (309); Lots One through Six (1-6), Block Three Hundred Sixteen (316) of the Original Brownsville Townsite of City of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas for the sales price of \$1,500,000 and authorize the President or her designee to sign all documents necessary or appropriate to close that sale; seconded by Mrs. Breedlove; motion carried unanimously. EXHIBIT "A"

3 Approval of minutes of previous meeting

Regular Meeting November 20, 2003

A motion was made by Mrs. Breedlove to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 20, 2003; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried.

4 Speakers to Agenda Items & Public Discussion

There were no speakers.

5 **Board Briefing**

Internet 2

Dr. José Martín, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced Mr. Doug Ferrier, Dean of Instructional Support and Dr. Fitratullah Khan, Professor of Computer Sciences to make a presentation regarding the implementation of Internet 2 at our campus.

Dr. Khan and Mr. Ferrier reported that Internet 2 will provide numerous benefits for UTB/TSC including higher speed and improved security.

The Board thanked Mr. Ferrier and Dr. Khan for their work to bring Internet 2 to our campus.

6 **Business Affairs Partnership Committee**

Consideration and possible action on SUJCD Audit Period Ending August 31, 2003

Ms. Rosemary Martinez introduced Mr. Carlos Cascos, CPA, from Patillo Brown and Hill, to provide an overview of the SUJCD audit and financial statements for the Fiscal Year 2003. Mr. Cascos reported that the District earned an “unqualified” opinion which means that there were no reportable conditions or material weaknesses found. Mr. Cascos thanked Melba Sanchez and Dr. Ronnau and their staff for their assistance in the audit process.

Dr. Ronnau thanked Ms. Martinez and UTB’s and TSC’s Accounting staff for their excellent work and support in preparing the end of the year financial statements.

A motion was made by Dr. Robles to accept the SUJCD Audit for Period Ending August 31, 2003 as presented; seconded by Ms. Breedlove; motion carried. EXHIBIT “B”

Report on Texas Southmost College Foundation, Inc., Audit Period Ending August 31, 2003

Dr. Ronnau reported that the audit for TSC Foundation, Inc. was presented to the Foundation Board of Directors at their annual meeting in December 10, 2003. The Foundation Audit also received an “unqualified” opinion.

Dr. Ronnau reported that the Foundation’s fund grew by more than \$400,000 during Fiscal Year 2003. He added that \$2.7 million in scholarships have been awarded over the life of the fund and a total of 11,000 students have benefited from these scholarships.

Consideration and possible action on Refunding Scenario for Tax Bonds Series 2004

Dr. Ronnau reported that First Southwest Company, the District's Financial Advisor, presented the District with an option to refund the tax bonds issued in 1994. In the preliminary analysis based on current interest rates, the District might realize approximately \$160,000 in savings after issuance and underwriting expenses over the life of the debt. He added that the refinancing option is available at this time because the bonds are callable on February 15, 2004, therefore eligible for refunding, and interest rates are within 50 basis points from the all time record low set in June 2003.

Dr. Ronnau stated that the District staff and the Business Affairs Partnership Committee have reviewed the proposal and are requesting authorization from the Board of Trustees to instruct First Southwest Company to prepare a formal proposal to refund the tax bonds. The proposal will be presented at the January 2004 meeting for the Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cardenas to authorize the staff to instruct First Southwest Company to prepare a formal proposal to refund the Tax Bonds Series 2004; seconded by Dr. Robles; motion carried. EXHIBIT "C"

7 Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee

Report

Ms. Zimmerman reported that the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Committee (IEPC) met Tuesday, December 16, 2003. Members present were: Dr. John Ronnau, Mr. Bill Harris and Ms. Eva Bower.

Ms. Zimmerman reported that Dr. Ronnau presented a draft of the 2003 IEPC Report. The report has a new format and will be called "Progress Report: Meeting the Challenge for Higher Education in the Rio Grande Valley" The committee reviewed and approved the new format and the data of the 2003 IEPC Report. She reported that the next meeting of the IEPC will be on January 20, 2004.

8 Construction Report

Dr. Ronnau introduced Mr. Larry Lof, Director of Rancho del Cielo, to report on the renovation of Cueto Building. Mr. Lof narrated pictures of the before and after state of the building. He thanked Mr. Daniel Montes and the UTB/TSC Building Trades students who were involved in the renovation of the Cueto Building.

Dr. Ronnau narrated a video of current construction at the International Innovation Center also known as the Business Incubator. He stated that the Business Incubator is now providing temporary offices for Workforce Training and Continuing Education.

Dr. Moore narrated a video of construction at The Praxedis Orive, Jr. Technical Training Center. He also reported on the work completed at the Education and Business Complex.

9 UTB/TSC President's Report

Dr. Garcia reported the following

- ?? The School of Education hosted a celebration for Dean Sylvia Peña to honor her for her work at UTB/TSC. Dr. Carl Stockton, the new Dean of the School of Education, will be joining UTB/TSC in January 2004.
- ?? More than 800 students are candidates for graduation at the Winter Commencement on Saturday, December 20th. The students will be receiving certificate, associate, bachelor, master and doctorate degrees. Dr. Elena Longoria Marin, the 2003 Co-Distinguished Alumnus for Texas Southmost College will be the Commencement speaker. This is the first year that there will be three ceremonies to accommodate the increasing number of graduates.
- ?? Nine students will receive a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) degree from UTB/TSC. Last fall, UTB/TSC was the first higher education institution in Texas to offer the BAT Degree.
- ?? UTB/TSC will host the UT System's Board of Regents meeting February 3rd and 4th. The Partnership Advisory Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, February 3rd from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in El Gran Salon on the Student Union.
- ?? The public is invited to the Fort Brown Memorial Center 50th Anniversary Celebration will be on January 26, 2004.

10 Proposed Meeting Dates

Board of Trustees Meetings:

January 22, 2004
February 26, 2004
March 25, 2004
April 29, 2004
May 20, 2004
June 24, 2004

Partnership Committee Meetings:

AAPC – February 5, 2004
BAPC – January, 15, 2004
IEPC – January 20, 2004

Partnership Advisory Committee
February 3, 2004

11 Announcements

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Gonzalez at 8:13 p.m.

Chester Gonzalez
Chair, Board of Trustees
Southmost Union Junior College District

Edwardo A. Campirano
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Southmost Union Junior College District

NOTE: The tape of the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on December 18, 2003, is on file at the District Office of the Southmost Union Junior College District. The master tape is on file at the UTB/TSC Media center. These minutes were taken and transcribed by Alma B. Solis. Video taping of the Board of Trustees' meetings began on April 11, 1996. They are aired on Channel KISD in cooperation with the Brownsville Independent School District.